

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO OASD/IL PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CSAF PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

CSA PRIORITY

CINCLANT FLT PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOM PRIORITY

USPS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 257386

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP ACOM ET

SUBJECT: APO/FPO MAIL SERVICE

REFS: A) ADDIS ABABA 10879; B) STATE 247645

1. IN VIEW OF PERSONAL HARDSHIPS BEING CREATED BY
SUSPENSION OF APO/FPO MAIL DELIVERY, WE BELIEVE THAT SUS-
PENSION OF APO/FPO MAIL IS NO LONGER A VIABLE MEANS OF

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DEALING WITH EFFORTS OF ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES TO INSPECT

THIS MAIL. UNLESS EMBASSY HAS OBJECTION, THEREFORE, WE PLAN TO RESUME DELIVERY INTO ETHIOPIA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES AND REGISTERED MAIL. MAIL TO ASMARA WOULD BE ROUTED AS RECOMMENDED REF A.

2. IF ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES ATTEMPT TO INSPECT THIS MAIL, EMBASSY SHOULD MAINTAIN POSITION THAT SUCH MAIL IS EXEMPT FROM INSPECTION BASED ON RATIONALE SET FORTH REF B. IF ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES NONETHELESS PERSIST IN INSPECTION, PMG SHOULD BE NOTIFIED THAT SUCH INSPECTION IS UNDER PROTEST OF USG. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, ANY INSPECTION SHOULD BE OBSERVED BY MILITARY POSTAL PERSONNEL TO ASSURE MAIL IS NOT LOST, DAMAGED OR DESTROYED.

3. IF OTHER MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY RAISE QUESTIONS OR OBJECTIONS TO RESUMPTION OF APO/FPO DELIVERIES ON THIS BASIS, YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT APO/FPO SERVICE IS SIMPLY AN EXTENSION OF THE DOMESTIC U.S. POSTAL SERVICE FOR DELIVERY OF MAIL TO OUR MILITARY OVERSEAS AND THAT APO/FPO SACKS DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS OF POUCHES. THEREFORE, RESUMPTION OF APO/FPO SERVICE IN NO WAY COMPROMISES INSISTENCE BY DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON POUCH TRAFFIC UNTIL MATTER IS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

4. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 500 BAGS OF MAIL TOTALLING 10,000 POUNDS ARE NOW ON HAND AT ATHENS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP IF YOU SEE OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPROACH. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF MAIL SERVICE WILL BE ISSUED BY DOD UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR CONCURRENCE. KISSINGER

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